

Amendments to the Claims:

1-67. Withdrawn

68. (Currently Amended) A method for determining an optimal ~~optimizing~~ a portfolio of assets comprising the steps of:

determining a fitness landscape representation ~~over a space with respect to a set of~~ portfolios of assets;

determining at least one optimal searching distance in said fitness landscape representation; and

searching for optimal ~~optimal~~ ones of said portfolios of assets at said at least one optimal searching distance ~~distances~~; and

presenting results from said searching for said optimal ones of said portfolios of assets on an electrical output device.

69. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 68 wherein each of said portfolios of assets comprises is defined as a vector corresponding to said assets of each corresponding portfolio wherein each element of said vector identifies ~~the number~~ a number of units of each of said corresponding assets in each of said portfolios.

70. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 69 wherein said at least one searching distance ~~distances~~ between a first portfolio of said portfolios and ~~the a~~ second portfolio ~~one~~ of said portfolios is defined as the difference between said vector of said first portfolio and said vector of said second portfolio.

71. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 68 wherein said fitness of said landscape representation comprises a value at of risk.

72. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 68 wherein said determining a fitness landscape representation step comprises ~~the step of~~ inferring said fitness landscape representation from historical data.

73. (Currently Amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code for determining an optimal ~~optimizing a~~ portfolio of assets, the code comprising:

code to determine a fitness landscape representation ~~over a space~~ with respect to a set of portfolios of assets;

code to determine at least one optimal searching distance in said fitness landscape representation; and

code to search for optimal ~~optional~~ ones of said portfolios of assets at said at least one optimal searching distance ~~distances~~; and

code to present results from said searching for said optimal ones of said portfolios of assets on an electrical output device.

74. (Currently Amended) A programmed computer system for determining an optimal ~~optimizing a~~ portfolio of assets comprising at least one memory having at least one region storing computer executable program code and at least one processor for executing the program code stored in said memory, wherein the program code comprises:

code to determine a fitness landscape representation ~~over a space~~ with respect to a set of portfolios of assets;

code to determine at least one optimal searching distance in said fitness landscape representation; and

code to search for optimal ~~optional~~ ones of said portfolios of assets at said at least one optimal searching distance ~~distances~~; and

code to present results from said searching for said optimal ones of said portfolios of assets on an electrical output device.

75-100. Withdrawn